

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Pastor: Emily Cowser

Liturgist: Vicky Bryan

Pianist: Merle Korizek

"We need to find God and God cannot be found in noise and restlessness. God is the friend of silence. See how nature – trees and flowers and grass – grow in silence. See the stars, the moon and the sun, how they move in silence. The more we receive in silent prayer, the more we can give in our active life."

(-Mother Teresa, Catholic nun and founder of Missionaries of Charity)

**Please stand if you are able*

PRELUDE

"We Gather Together"

A Netherlands Folk Song arranged by Eduard Kremser

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Based on The Message translation of Psalm 46

One: God is a safe place to hide, always ready to help.

**ALL: We stand fearless at the cliff-edge of doom,
courageous in seastorm and earthquake,
Before the rush and roar of oceans,
the tremors that shift mountains.**

One: God fights for us. God-of-Angel-Armies protects us.

Attention, all! See the marvels of God!

**ALL: God plants flowers and trees all over the earth,
Bans war from pole to pole,
breaks all the weapons across God's knee.**

One: "Step out of the traffic! Take a long,
loving look at me, your High God,
above politics, above everything."

**ALL: Let us worship the God who fights for us, the God-of-Angel-Armies who
protects us.**

*(*Please remain standing for the hymn)*

*HYMN

"God Is Our Refuge and Our Strength"

GtG #329

God is our refuge and our strength,
our ever-present aid,

and therefore, though the earth
be moved,
we will not be afraid;

Though hills amid the seas be cast,
though foaming waters roar,
yea, though the mighty
billows shake
the mountains on the shore.

Where God abides a river flows;
that city will rejoice.
But nations fear
and kingdoms shake
before God's thundering voice.

Since God is in the midst of it,
the city walls shall stand,
secure and safe
with God's sure help,
when trouble is at hand.

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**ALL: O Lord our God,
you call us to proclaim the gospel,
but we remain silent in the presence of evil.
You call us to be reconciled to you and one another,
but we are content to live in separation.
You call us to seek the good of all,
but we fail to resist the powers of oppression.
You call us to fight pretensions and injustice,
but we sit idly by,
endangering the lives of people far and near.**

**Forgive us, O Lord.
Reconcile us to you by the power of your Spirit,
and give us the courage and strength
to be reconciled to others;
through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior.**

(a moment of silent confession)

***DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

One: The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, that we might be dead to sin, and alive to all that is good. I declare to you in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

***THE PEACE**

*(*Please remain standing for the hymn)*

***“Gloria Patri”**

GtG #581

Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Jeremiah 23:1-8

Page 1210

One: The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING

Luke 23:33-43

Page 1641

One: The Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to you, O Christ!

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Colossians 1:11-20

Page 1832

One: The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

SPECIAL MUSIC

“I Am Thankful”
Angie Killian

Video

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

One: The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

*(*Please stand for the hymn)*

*HYMN

“Be Still, My Soul”

GtG #819

Be still, my soul:
the Lord is on thy side.
Bear patiently the cross
of grief or pain.
Leave to thy God
to order and provide,

Who through all changes
faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul: thy best,
thy heavenly Friend
through thorny ways leads
to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul:
thy God doth undertake
to guide the future surely
as the past.
Thy hope, thy confidence
let nothing shake;

All now mysterious shall
be bright at last.

Be still, my soul:
the waves and winds still know
his voice who ruled them
while he dwelt below.

Be still, my soul:

the hour is hastening on
when we shall be forever
with the Lord;
when disappointment, grief,
and fear are gone,

Sorrow forgot,
love's purest joys restored.
Be still, my soul:
when change and tears are past
all safe and blessed
we shall meet at last.

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

From the Confession of 1967

ALL: God has created humankind in a personal relation with Godself that humans may respond to the love of the Creator. Life is a gift to be received with gratitude and a task to be pursued with courage. Humans are free to seek their lives within the purpose of God: to develop and protect the resources of nature for the common welfare, to work for justice and peace in society, and in other ways to use their creative powers for the fulfillment of human life.

THE OFFERING

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Offering plates are located in the back of the sanctuary. You may also give online at fpchelena.org/giving or by mailing a check to First Presbyterian Church 535 N. Ewing St., Helena, MT 59601.

OFFERTORY

"Give Us This Day"

Bobby Day

***DOXOLOGY "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"**

GtG #606

Praise God, from whom all
blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here
below;

Praise him above,
ye heavenly host;

praise Father, Son,
and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*OFFERING PRAYER

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & LORD'S PRAYER

*(*Please stand for the hymn)*

*HYMN

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

GtG #275

A mighty fortress is our God,
a bulwark never failing.
Our helper he, amid the flood
of mortal ills prevailing.

For still our ancient foe
doth seek to work us woe.
His craft and power are great,
and armed with cruel hate,
on earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own
strength confide,
our striving would be losing,
were not the right man
on our side,
the man of God's own choosing.

Dost ask who that may be?
Christ Jesus, it is he.
Lord Sabaoth his name,
from age to age the same,
and he must win the battle.

And though this world,
with devils filled,

should threaten to undo us,
we will not fear,
for God hath willed
his truth to triumph through us.

The Prince of Darkness grim,
we tremble not for him.
His rage we can endure,
for lo, his doom is sure.
One little word shall fell him.

That word above
all earthly powers,
no thanks to them, abideth.
The Spirit and the gifts are ours
through him who with us sideth.

Let goods and kindred go,
this mortal life also.
The body they may kill;
God's truth abideth still.
His kingdom is forever.

*CHARGE

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Glorify Thy Name”
Donna Adkins

Announcements

Welcome!

A special welcome to visitors joining us for worship today. If you have children with you, feel free to hand them one of the cloth bags hanging in the back of the sanctuary — they are filled with books and toys! Hymns are found in the “Glory to God” (GtG) hymnal in the pews, as well as on the screen. Please sign the red fellowship pad in your pew and pass it to your neighbor. It

is our tradition to remain seated during the Postlude at the conclusion of the service. After the service, please join us for refreshments and conversation!

Doors Locked During Service

Session decided to lock the main entrance doors during the worship service. The doors are locked from 10:15 to 11 a.m., and unlocked again between 11 a.m. and noon.

FPC Hosting Family Promise Nov. 30-Dec. 2

FPC will be hosting Family Promise Sunday, Nov. 30, through Tuesday, Dec. 2. Please sign up if you can help provide a meal Sunday night, or serve as overnight hosts at First Christian Church on Sunday, Monday, or Tuesday nights. Signup sheets are available in the fellowship area. Call Bonnie Anderson at 406-461-2794 or Carol Gneckow at 406-422-9914 for details.

Advent Study Begins Thursday, Dec. 4

Commissioned Pastor Dianna Goodman will lead an Advent study on Thursdays, Dec. 4, 11, and 18, at 11 a.m., in the church library. The study will use the book, "Names for the Messiah," by Walter Brueggemann. If you plan to participate, please sign up on the sheet in the fellowship area. Study books will be available Sunday, Nov. 30.

Raffle Conclusion

Please return all remaining raffle tickets and money today, so all tickets can be included in the 3 p.m. raffle drawing on Thanksgiving Day. Thank you!

Help Pack Chanukah Boxes Monday, Nov. 24, 6 p.m.

Yes, it's a Chanukah Box packing party at Temple Emanu-El again! We have packed boxes before for sending to Montana teachers to discuss Chanukah. Treats will be available to volunteers. This will be held at our neighbor's Temple Emanu-El Conference Room, Monday, Nov. 24, 6-8 pm. Please let Carol Gneckow know if you plan to help: (406) 422-9914.

Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service Tuesday, Nov. 25

FPC and four other local churches are participating in an Ecumenical Thanksgiving Worship Service Tuesday, Nov. 25, at Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church, 3580 N. Benton Ave. The service begins at 6:30 p.m. and will be followed by a pie social.

Volunteers, Donations Needed for Thanksgiving Dinner

Please check the signup sheets in the fellowship area to see how you can help with our free Community Thanksgiving Dinner on Thursday, Nov. 27, 1-3 p.m.

Church Decorating Next Sunday

Plan to stay after the service next Sunday, Nov. 30, to help decorate the church sanctuary and entrance for the Advent and Christmas seasons! All are encouraged to participate!

Angel Tree Details!

It is critical that you attach the "angel" that you took from the Angel Tree to your gift when you return it. The letter and number on that angel are the only way of identifying to whom the gift belongs. Also, someone asked if you needed to buy all the items on the list. NO! The items listed were suggestions from the caregiver, and we tried to get several so you can choose. If it is possible to buy more than one item from the list and remain within the \$30 limit, go for it.

Snow Shoveler Needed

We are looking to hire someone to shovel our sidewalks (including the entire block.) The person would need to be available to clear the sidewalks after snowfalls, especially before the Sunday morning service. For details, call Butch Plowman at 406-558-9240.

You're Invited!

Monday, Nov. 24	Packing Chanukah Boxes 6 p.m.
Tuesday, Nov. 25	Ecumenical Service 6:30 p.m. <i>(at Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church)</i>
Wednesday, Nov. 26	Choir Rehearsal 2 p.m.
Thursday, Nov. 27	<i>Thanksgiving Dinner 1-3 p.m.</i>
Friday, Nov. 28 <i>(Church office closed)</i>	Friday Bible Study 12/noon Hand & Foot Cards 1:30 p.m.
Sunday, Nov. 30 <i>(Advent begins)</i>	Worship Service 10 a.m. Social Time & Church Decorating 11 a.m.

Staff

Ministers—Every Member	Organist—Ann Swisher
Pastor—Rev. Emily Cowser	Treasurer—Leo Potter
Director of Music & Media—Les Cramer	Office Coordinator—Julie Young

FPC Elders

Patti Borsberry
(Worship Chair)

Jeff Chaffee
(Personnel Chair)

Barb Leland
(Friendship Chair)

John Bryan
(Christian Ed Chair)

Jim Meyer
(Administration Chair)

Butch Plowman
(Building & Grounds Chair)

Carol Gneckow
(Mission & Outreach Chair)

John Gneckow, Clerk of Session

FPC Deacons

BJ Burns

Kathy Chambers

Jill Cook

Bonnie Anderson

Ward Stiles, Vice-Moderator

Vicky Bryan

Art Bumgardner, Moderator

Rena Bumgardner

Ria Caussyn

Carole Massman



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Pastor Emily Cowser

Phone: 406-442-4775

Email: pastor@fpchelena.org

Weekly Sermon on HCTV Cable Channel 189, Wednesdays 6 p.m. & Saturdays 9 a.m.